



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY, FIRE AND STATE LANDS

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### STATE FORESTER HONORS UTAH LANDOWNERS

The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, in conjunction with the Utah Forest Stewardship Committee, has honored seven Utahns. Each year awards are presented to citizens who apply modern forestry techniques to protect the environment while providing essential natural resources. The awards were presented at the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Utah Association of Conservation Districts in St. George, Utah.

"I'm pleased to recognize these individuals for their devotion to proper land management techniques," said State Forester Joel Frandsen. "They demonstrate the validity of the concept of natural resource sustainability."

The 2003 Utah Forest Landowner of the Year award has been presented to the Fred and Laura Selman family of Tremonton, Utah. The Selmans, along with their son Brett and daughter-in-law Michelle, manage a 7,700-acre ranch. Imbued with a strong conservation ethic, the Selmans are committed to proper range and forest conservation practices. The Selmans have instituted practices to improve timber stands, improve Sharptail grouse habitat, enhance riparian areas and eradicate invasive weed species.

Agro-Forest Landowners of the Year 2003 are Joan and Mike Wilcox who own and operate the "V Bar Open A" ranch in the Lower Lisbon Valley, La Sal, Utah. The Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, in cooperation with the USDA Soil Conservation Service, developed a management plan for the property. Using the plan, the Wilcox's planted windbreaks to reduce high velocity canyon winds, thus protecting cattle and improving wildlife habitat and demonstrating the benefits of good agro-forest resource management.

The 2003 Forest Stewardship Achievement Award has been presented to Utah State University's Grand County Extension Director Michael Johnson. Johnson works diligently to demonstrate to local landowners and homeowners the need for sound forest and agro-forest management practices. He tirelessly promotes understanding and consensus building among the diverse groups interested in natural resource issues.

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